

§ 375.10

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or volume and charges on a shipment, and supplies the carrier with an address or telephone number at which the communication will be received, the carrier shall comply with such request upon determining the actual weight and charges. Such notification shall be made by telephone, telegram, or in person.

(b) Whenever a shipper requests notification of the weight or volume and charges on a shipment as provided in paragraph (a), the notification must be received by the shipper, at least one full 24-hour day, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays, prior to any tender of the shipment for delivery. The 24-hour notification requirement shall not apply on a shipment to be backweighed or on a shipment which, with the agreement of the shipper, is to be picked up and delivered within a time period encompassing two consecutive week days, or on a shipment on which the charges have been estimated and the maximum amount required to be paid at time of delivery is 110 percent of the estimated charges.

§ 375.10 Signed receipt for shipment-release prohibited.

A shipping document to be signed by the consignee at time of delivery shall not contain any language which purports to release or discharge the carrier or its agents from liability, but may contain a statement that the property has been received in apparent good condition except as noted on the shipping documents.

§ 375.11 Selling of insurance to shippers.

(a) When a shipment is released for transportation at a value not exceeding 60 cents per pound per article, and the shipper does not declare a valuation of \$1.25 or more per pound and pay or agree to pay the carrier for assuming liability for the shipment equal to the declared value, any common carrier of household goods as defined in § 375.1(b)(1), or any employee, agent, or representative thereof, may sell, or offer to sell or procure for any shipper, any kind of insurance, under any type of policy, covering loss or damage in excess of the specified carrier liability to a shipment or shipments of house-

hold goods to be transported in interstate or foreign commerce by such carrier; *Provided*, that the shipper is issued a policy or other appropriate evidence of the insurance purchased, and a copy thereof be furnished to the shipper at the time the insurance is sold or procured. Carrier issued policies shall be written in plain English and shall clearly specify the nature and extent of coverage. Failure to issue a policy or other appropriate evidence of insurance purchased shall subject the carrier to full liability for any claims to recover for loss or damage attributed to the carrier.

(b) Any carrier offering or selling or procuring insurance as provided in paragraph (a) of this section shall provide in its tariff for the provision of such service. The tariff shall also provide for the base transportation charge to include assumption by the carrier for full liability for the value of the shipment in the event a policy or other appropriate evidence of the insurance purchased by the shipper is not issued to the shipper at the time of purchase.

[46 FR 16218, Mar. 11, 1981. Redesignated at 61 FR 54707, Oct. 21, 1996, as amended at 62 FR 49941, Sept. 24, 1997]

§ 375.12 Liability of carriers.

(a) *Liability restricted.* Except as provided in § 375.11(a), common carriers by motor vehicle of household goods as defined in § 375.1(b)(1) shall not assume any liability in excess of that for which they are legally liable under their lawful bills of lading and published tariffs.

(b) *Limitations of liability.* A common carrier by motor vehicle of household goods shall be liable for loss of or damage to any articles caused by it while being transported or while being held for storage-in-transit, including incidental pickup or delivery, and including liability for loss or damage to any article or appliance resulting from the servicing of such article or appliance by a third person engaged by the carrier to perform such service, to the extent provided in the outstanding released rates order; except that the carrier may exempt its liability in the following instances:

(1) No liability need be assumed for perishable articles included in the shipment without the knowledge of the

carrier; and a carrier accepting for shipment perishable articles may impose reasonable conditions necessary to insure the safe transportation of such commodities.

(2) When a shipment is released to a value greater than sixty cents (60¢) per pound, per article, liability for loss or damage may be limited to \$100 per pound, per article (based upon the actual article weight), for any article included in the shipment that exceeds \$100 per pound, per article in value, unless the shipper specifically notifies the carrier in writing that an identified article or articles with a value greater than \$100 per pound will be included in the shipment. In such case, the shipper will be entitled to full recovery up to the declared value of the article or articles, not to exceed the declared value of the entire shipment.

(c) *Storage-in-transit.* A common carrier by motor vehicle of household goods holding goods for storage-in-transit (S.I.T.) shall, no less than 10 days prior to the expiration of either the specified period of time during which the goods are to be held in such storage or the maximum period of time provided in the carrier's tariff for storage-in-transit, notify the shipper in writing (1) of the date of conversion to permanent storage, (2) of the existence of a nine-month period subsequent to the date of conversion to permanent storage during which shipper may file claims against the carrier for loss and/or damage which occurred to the goods in transit or during the S.I.T. period, and, (3) of the fact that on the date of conversion, the liability of the carrier shall terminate and the property shall be subject to the rules, regulations, and charges of the warehouseman. Notification shall be by certified mail, return receipt requested. A common carrier by motor vehicle of household goods holding goods for storage-in-transit for a period of time less than 10 days shall, no less than one day prior to the expiration of the specified time during which the goods are to be held in such storage, give notification to the shipper of the information specified in paragraph (d) (1), (2), and (3) and maintain a record thereof as part of its record of the shipment. Failure or refusal of a carrier to notify the shipper

in accordance with the foregoing shall automatically effect a continuance of carrier liability pursuant to the applicable tariff provisions with respect to S.I.T., until the end of the day following the date upon which notice is given.

[46 FR 16218, Mar. 11, 1981, as amended at 55 FR 18729, May 9, 1990; 55 FR 30235, July 25, 1990; 62 FR 49941, Sept. 24, 1997]

§ 375.13 Complaint and inquiry handling.

(a) Motor common carriers engaged in the transportation of household goods as defined in § 375.1(a) shall establish and maintain a procedure for responding to complaints and inquiries from shippers for which such transportation is provided. The procedure shall include a means whereby shippers may communicate with the principal office of the carrier by telephone.

(b) The carrier shall retain and make part of the file relating to a shipment a written record of all complaints and inquiries received from a shipper by any means of communication.

[46 FR 16218, Mar. 11, 1981. Redesignated at 61 FR 54707, Oct. 21, 1996; 62 FR 49941, Sept. 24, 1997]

§ 375.14 Agency agreements.

(a) Household Goods Agents are defined as follows:

(1) Prime agents are defined as all agents who are permitted or required under the terms of any agreement or arrangement with a principal carrier to provide any transportation service for or on behalf of the principal carrier, including the selling of or arranging for any transportation service, and who perform such services on other than an emergency or temporary basis.

(2) Military agents are defined as all agents who are permitted or required under the terms of any agreement or arrangement with a principal carrier to provide origin and/or destination services only on shipments transported on Government bills of lading issued by the Department of Defense, and who perform such services on other than an emergency or temporary basis.

(3) Temporary agents are defined as all agents who are permitted or required under the terms of any agreement or arrangement with a principal